There were 1118 such incidents of firing during July-October, 1997 in which 32 civilians and 11 Indian army personnel lost their lives. In the anti-terrorist operations undertaken by the security forces during this period, 338 militants were killed, while a large number were arrested or surrendered. 73 civilians were killed by terrorists during this period and 62 army personnel lost their lives in anti-terrorist operations.

Arrangement for Haj-1998

948. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pilgrim quota for Haj-1998 has been fixed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the quota of Gujarat therein; and

(d) the arrangements being made by Government and Haj Committee for Haj-1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) and (b) The quota for pilgrims' under the arrangements made by the Haj Committee for Haj-1998 has been fixed at 66,000.

(c) For Haj-1998, pilgrims' quota for Gujarat State has been fixed by the Haj Committee at 6325.

(d) Arrangements being made by the Government and Haj Committee for Haj-1998 include hiring of accommodation in Makkah, despatch of medicines for use in Indian dispensaries, deputation of approximately 300 Government personnel to Saudi Arabia, including a medical mission, air charter for transporting the pilgrims, preparation of pilgrim passes, and release of foreign exchange 31,000 accommodation units have already been hired in Makkah Partial advance of rentals has been paid to the landlords. Despatch of medicines is underway. Applications from the prospective deputationists have been received and are being processed. Action is underway to obtain visas. For the air charter, quotations received from various airlines are under scrutiny and the charter is expected to be finalised shortly. An orientation programme for Haj pilgrims will take place shortly. Booklets (Haj Guide) in Hindi, English and Urdu are under print.

Bangladeshi assistance to insurgents in Assam

949. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that Bangladesh is assisting insurgents in Assam; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government do not have reports that the Govt. of Bangladesh is assisting insurgents in Assam. However, the Government is aware of reports that Indian insurgent groups including those from Assam have been able to misuse Bangladesh territory for their activities including sanctuary, movement of weapons etc. Government's serious concerns at such activities have been taken up with the Bangladesh authorities on a regular basis at high levels. The Govt. of Bangladesh has stated that it does not allow Bangladesh territory for sanctuary, transit, setting up of camps and carrying arms into India by any insurgent and that action is taken to drive out or arrest insurgents found on Bangladesh territory. The Govt. of Bangladesh has agreed to our request to hand over arrested Indian insurgents after due judicial processes are completed.

Protection to Indian Fishermen from the Thai Fishermen

950. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to protect the Indian fishermen living off the Sunderbans in Bay of Bangal from attacks and robbery by Thai fishermen;

(b) the value of fish forcibly taken away by the intruding Thai trawlers from the Indian fishermen during the first six months of this year; and

(c) the details of the measures taken for the safety of the Indian fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

पूर्व सोवियत संघ में रह रहे भारतीयों को पेश आ रही समस्यायें

951. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सोवियत संघ के विखण्डन के पश्चात भारत के कितने व्यक्ति एवं छात्र किन-किन नवोदित राष्ट्रों में निवास कर रहे हैं;

(ख) इनमें से कितने व्यक्तियों को पूर्व सोवियत संघ के साथ किए गए समझौतों के अन्तर्गत रहने की अनुमति दी गई है और कितने लोग नवीन राष्ट्रों के साथ किए गए समझौतों के अन्तर्गत रह रहे हैं;

(ग) पूर्व सोवियत संघ के साथ सम्पन्न समझौतों के अन्तर्गत रह रहे भारतीयों को किन राष्ट्रों में कठिनाईयों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है; और

(घ) पूर्व सोवियत संघ के विघटन के बाद निर्मित राष्ट्रों में रह रहे भारतीयों के कष्टों के निवारण के लिये की जा रही कार्रवाई का ब्यौरा क्या है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा): (क) से (घ) पूर्व सोवियत संघ में रह रहे छात्रों सहित भारतीय नागरिकों की अनुमानित संख्या इस प्रकार है: आर्मेनिया-350, अजरबैजान-141, बेलारूस-150, एस्तोनिया-30, जार्जिया-175, कजाकस्तान-1100, किर्गिजस्तान-150, लातविया-38, लिथुआनिया-5, माल्दोवा-2, रूसी परिसंघ-14000, ताजिकिस्तान-250, तुर्कमेनिस्तान-100, यूक्रेन-4,700, उजबेकिस्तान-350, अधिकांश भारतीय इन देशों में सोवियत संघ के विघटन के पश्चात से रह रहे हैं। ऐसा अनुमान है कि पूर्व सोवियत संघ के साथ किये गये समझौते के अनुसार 400 भारतीय तक इन देशों में रह रहे हैं। पूर्व सोवियत संघ के किसी भी देश में ये भारतीय नागरिक किसी भी परेशानी का सामना नहीं कर रहे हैं। किसी भारतीय नागरिक से कोई शिकायत प्राप्त होने पर उनकी समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए संबद्ध भारतीय मिशन सभी आवश्यक सहायता प्रदान कर रहा है इन देशों में भारतीय छात्रों, व्यापारियों तथा अन्य समुदायों के साथ नियमित संपर्क रखा गया है तथा भारतीय नागरिकों के कल्याण और उनके हितों के संरक्षण के लिए तत्काल कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

Obstruction by Big Powers in acquiring technology in critical defence areas

952. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that certain big powers of the world are obstructing the country from acquiring technology in critical defence areas;

(b) if so, what are the names of those big powers;

(c) the areas of defence technology being obstructed by these big powers stating the reasons for their objections in acquiring the technology by our country; and

what is the reaction of government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Adhoc export control technology denial regimes operated mainly by developed western countries have been used by these countries to harmonise their policy of restricting access, for, non-members, to specific dual-use technology items.

(c) There are several technology denial regimes convering nuclear, biological, chemical and space related technologies. Access to these technologies is controlled on account of proliferation concerns.

(d) India remains opposed to adhoc export control regime which it believes are discriminatory technology denial regimes. India however supports non-proliferation in all its aspects and has undertaken measures to prevent any illegal export of dual-purpose items and technologies. At the same time India remains committed to developing its indigenous technological capabilities.